

Lewis & Clark County Weed District Minutes  
Wednesday Sept 7, 2016  
1:00 PM  
Weed Conference Room

**Present:**

Steve Johns – Chairman	Susan Good Geise - BoCC
Bob Bushnell – Member	Eric Griffin – Public Works
Joel Redding – Member	Greta Dige – city of Helena
Orville Johnson – Member	Larry Hoffman - Coordinator
Rob McDonough – Vice Chairman	Guest - Judith Anne Vincent

**Call to Order:** - Steve Johns – Chairman - Called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM with 5 board members present, 3 exofficial persons and 1 guest/public present.

**Introductions:** - Steve Johns – Chairman – No introductions needed.

**Minutes:** Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the minutes as sent. Seconded by Rob McDonough and approved.

**Budget Report/Claims:** - Bob Bushnell made a motion to approve the budget report and pay all outstanding bills. Seconded the motion by Rob McDonough and approved.

**Public Comment:** - Judith Anne Vincent talked about the fire situation in the Canyon Creek area and the hold up on fall spraying. Resprayed 17 miles in area and throughout the season sprayed 5 to 6 thousand gallons of solution out on noxious weeds.

**Correspondence:** .

- Monthly Weed Post
- Golf For Weeds!! – Dave Burch – MDOA
- Rocky Mountain Front Weed Roundtable – Board Meeting – October 5, 2016 – 1-4 PM
- Timber Sales
  - Stonewall
  - Lone Point
- MDA – PRODUCTION COMMITTEE - NWSFFP

**REPORTS:**

**BoCC** – Susan Good Geise – Tax abatement – solar panels – main topic in two weeks for the commission. What is the companies doing for the neighbors or the county is the question and how are neighbors affected? Property values of neighbors will change. MACO conference will be in mid September – Main topic for Lewis and Clark County is a resolution on nonpartisan elections for county officials. Conservation Easements need partners to match dollars. Fires – safety is the key to success of management.

**Public Works** – Eric Griffin – Five federal practices are wrapping up this fall for the county. Snow plow/equipment rodeo at the fairgrounds end of September. 100,000 tires – what is a county to do with them? Landfill will be dealing with the tire problems.

**City of Helena** – Greta Dige – Mowing hours 127 (not including trimming crew time). Spraying – 546 gallons sprayed out and will be spraying more this fall. Contractor sprayed 57 acres and the city is scheduled to spray another 180 acres this fall.

**Board Reports:**

**Augusta Area:** Mike Cobb – Not present.

**Canyon Creek Area:** Steve Johns – Dry! 900 acres fire in the area of Canyon Creek. Weeds are stressed by the weather.

**Central Area:** Joel Redding – Whitetop has bloomed and gone to seed.

**East Area:** Charles Butler – Not Present

**Lincoln Area:** Bob Bushnell – Dry in Lincoln. Knapweed keeps coming on – fourth growth this season. Education of weed habits is needed. Insects were distributed in fire areas.

**Helena/South Area:** Orville Johnson – Nothing to report at this time.

**West Area:** Request for applications from the commission.

**Wolf Creek Area:** Rob McDonough – Fire on neighbors – 600 acres – volunteers and fire departments were on the scene. 1.25 inches of rain in the last week. National Buffalo Range – knapweed, knapweed, and knapweed. Lewis and Clark County is on top of the noxious weeds versus other counties.

**Coordinator Report:** Larry Hoffman – Spray projects – BLM, FS, inspections in the city, home visits and crew development. Distributed spotted knapweed insects to Lincoln fire area. Working with Prickly Pear Land Trust on Seven Mile Creek parcels. Whitetop programs for area producers are working with MSU.

**Inspection Report:** Mike Bacon – Total inspections – 69 for non-compliant – 43 for compliant – 21 and 5 courtesy inspections for August 2 to September 7<sup>th</sup>..

**Action Items:**

**New Business:**

**Inspection Data** – Distributed to the board members present.

**Spray Data** – Distributed to the board members present.

**Complaint Process** – Greta Dige – “TRAKIT” program report to follow in the coming months for inspection data.

**Old Business:**

**County /Reservation Grant 2017** – The grant is for \$7500-

- Look into remote controls for hose reels for spray trucks. \$2400
- Computer Needs:
  - IPAD AIR 2 – Coordinator - \$800
  - Planner - \$200 upgrade of program
  - Administrative staff - \$200 upgrade of program
- Community Programs:
  - Insects - \$2000
  - Cost Share programs - \$1900
  - Grazing Project or education and promotion - \$2400
    - Next meeting vote

**Truck Update** – GMC - \$35,770 – Larry Hoffman is to check with Audra Zacherl on bid and follow up with GMC dealer.

**Forest Service Agreement** – Five year agreement was signed by the county commission for \$156,000 payable to the weed district for spray programs.

**Farm Service Weed Management Plans** – Developed for clients to meet requirements of agency.

**Other Business:**

**Board Training** – Attended by Joel Redding and Larry Hoffman – Information distributed to board members.

**Lewis and Clark Conservation District Report** – Bob Bushnell – Board meeting in Lincoln on Thursday of this week.

**Crew Report** – All but three crew members are done for the season. Remaining crew members will finish up around the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. Mike Bacon – Planner – will be done on September 16h and Bobbi Miller will finish up on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Shop Closing** – September 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> of next week.

**Whitetop Insect Trials** – Will be conducted in cooperation with MSU on the Coleman property, VA Lagoons and Prickly Pear Trust on the Seven Mile Creek project in 2017 season.

**Calendars 2017** - Distributed to board members present.

**NWSFF Advisory Council** – NO board interest at this time.

**Mapping Questions** – by Bob Bushnell

**Announcements:**

Next Board Meeting – **October 5, 2016(cancelled)** in the Weed Conference Room.  
Lewis and Clark Conservation District Meeting: October 13, at 8:30 am – Dearborn Community Center

**Adjournment:** Adjourned 2:23 P.M.